

Giant molluscum pendulum

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ABSTRACT. **Introduction** Molluscum pendulum is a benign fibrous tumor of the skin, also known as 'acrochordons' usually small in size. Clinically it presents as a small, soft, pedunculated growth flesh-colored but the giant molluscum pendulum is a rare finding. **Materials and methods:** We present you a case of a 48- year-old men, with no significant personal pathological history, that addresses the County Emergency Clinical Hospital „Saint Spiridon” Iasi, for acute hemorrhage from a tumor at the level of the left thigh. The clinical examination revealed a pedunculated tumor, with macroscopic aspect of Molluscum pendulum, with subcutaneous hematoma. **Result:** Our patient presented a pedunculated tumor on the left thigh, with recent signs of hemorrhage and a subcutaneous hematoma, without any other complains. The biochemical tests revealed inflammatory syndrome and anemia. Surgical intervention was performed with de resection of formation. The histopathological examination confirmed the diagnosis of cutaneous fibroepithelial polyp. **Conclusion:** Early diagnosis and treatment of primary sites of cutaneous lesions avoids complications and the need of ample surgery.

Key words: Molluscum pendulum, hemorrhage, anemia, cutaneous lesion

Introduction

Cutaneous fibroepithelial polyp [FEP] is a benign fibrous tumor of the skin, also known as 'acrochordons' usually small in size, while FEP is generally used for the latter. Clinically it presents as a small, soft, pedunculated growth flesh-colored. The preferential topographies are the zones of flexion. The giant molluscum pendulum is a rare entity [1]. The most common localizations are on the eyelids, neck, armpits, sub mammary area, and the upper part of the thorax. The disease is usually asymptomatic and becomes sensitive when it twists and intrudes on its implantation pedicle or when it complicates with hemorrhage due to a traumatism. Molluscum pendulum is to be distinguished from a pedunculated nevus or a neurofibroma and its treatment is based on cryotherapy and electrocoagulation, or surgical excision when its dimensions are very large [2].

Clinical case

We present you a case of a 48- year-old men, with no significant personal pathological history, that addresses the County Emergency Clinical Hospital „Saint Spiridon” Iasi, accusing pain in anterior face of the superior region of the

thigh, with sudden onset after fall trauma from the same height. In the moment of presentation in the emergency room, the pedunculated tumor was detected at the level of the left thigh, with areas of recent hemorrhage, a hematoma associated with pain at palpation.

The size of the tumor was about 170/140/70 millimeters, and a peduncles of 80/60/40 millimeters, lobulated appearance on the surface (Figure 1). From the patient history we note the tumor was evolving for 20 years, without any treatment or medical examination.

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Figure 1. Pediculated tumor with areas of recent hemorrhage at admission.

Table 1. Pathologic laboratory tests.

Indicators	Preoperative	Normal	MU
LEUCOCITES	17,21	4-10	*10 ³ /μL
ERITROCYTES	3,77	3,8-5,8	*100 ³ /μL
HEMOGLOBIN	10,8	13,0-17,3	g/dl
HEMATOCRIT	31,1	39,0-51,0	%
C-reactive protein	16,99	0-0,50	mg/dl

Following the imaging (chest X-ray) that did not present any deviation and laboratory investigations that detects hemorrhage, leukocytosis and inflammation (Table 1), the decision was made to excision of the tumor.

Excision of the tumor formation at the base of the pedicle was performed (Figure 2) with the application of sutures at the level of the wound. Postoperatively, the piece was collected and sent for histological examination which revealed traumatized cutaneous fibroepithelial polyp 17/13,5/7cm with 8/5,7/3,5cm pedicle (Figure 3).

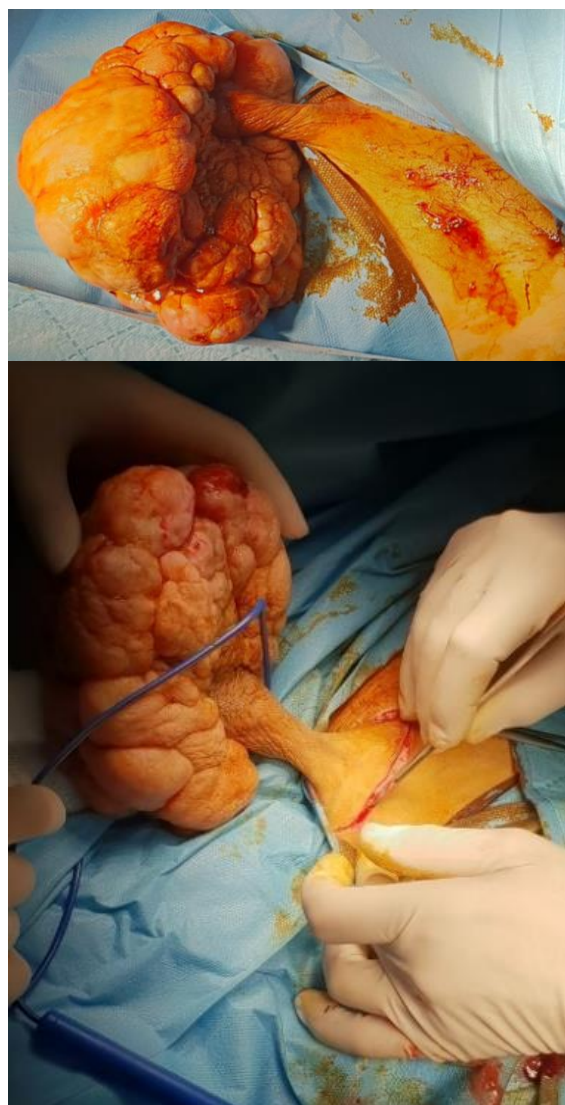




Figure 2. Excision of the tumor and surgical site.



Figure 3. Postoperative piece.
A - anterior view, B - posterior view.

Discussions

In dermatology, the word “molluscum” is used as a prefix for infective and non-infective conditions. Originally, the Latin word “molluscum” referred to a fungus growing on maple tree. It is derived from “mollis” meaning “soft”. “Mollusca” also refers to a phylum in the animal kingdom, presumably named because of their soft bodies. In dermatology, the term is used to describe soft papules or nodules with or without central umbilication.

Though, umbilicated lesions may be seen in a variety benign as well as malignant dermatological conditions, the term molluscum has only been used for a limited number of entities [3].

Fibroepithelial polyps (acrochordon or skin tag) are benign tumors that usually occur in skin folds, such as the axilla, genital area or neck. In our case the tumor didn't evolve in a skin fold. They can be solitary or multiple. Their dimensions usually do not exceed 1-2 millimeters [3].

Sometimes, they can reach huge dimensions. In the literature, a giant fibroepithelial polyp with a size of 42 centimeters has been reported [4].

The cause of growth of the FEPs are not clear, however, a positive correlation between obesity, insulin resistance and FEP growth has been proposed [5]. The fact that our patient has a normal body mass index suggests that obesity and insulin resistance may not be a factor in the growth of FEP [6-7].

Although FEPs are benign skin tumors, they tend to regrow if not totally excised [8]. They can be treated with cryotherapy or cauterization when their size is in millimeters, while surgical excision is required in larger FEPs.

Therefore, we excised the lesion with a 50 millimeters safety margin. We closed the resulting defect with suture, no local flaps or skin grafts was necessary and the recovery was without complications.

Conclusions:

Based on the literature data, there are few cases of giant pendulum molluscum, which reveals the presentation to the doctor in early cases of the disease.

In our case, the patient ignored the increase in size of the tumor, the failure to go to the doctor in time increased the risk of complications, as the result of a trauma, the hemorrhage started.

We remind the importance of presenting to the doctor on time and reassessing the patient's condition at different stages. If the bleeding of the tumor wouldn't appear, most probably our patient would continue to live with this giant formation with a lower quality of life.

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